

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A short arc discharge lamp has improved starting properties in which there is no danger of damaging the arc tube that surrounds a discharge space and in which the radiant light from the arc tube is not adversely shielded. This is achieved by providing the short arc discharge lamp with a first electrode having an electrical potential and to which a high voltage is applied, and a second electrode opposite the first at a in spaced relationship. Additionally, in the discharge space, there is positioned at least one conductive component with a tip projecting into the discharge space. The conductive component has an electrical potential which is identical to the electrical potential of the first electrode and has a tip spaced a distance from the second electrode which is greater than the distance between the first and the second electrode.